



March 29, 2017

Oregon Conservation Network Testimony on HB 5010, ODFW Budget

Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Brad Witt, Co-Chairs
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick, Witt, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 5010, the budget bill for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

The Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) is coordinated through the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. OCN is a coalition of nearly 40 not-for-profit organizations throughout the state, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and to fight policies that threaten our state's natural legacy. OCN is powered by tens of thousands of Oregonians who belong to their membership organizations. We work to protect funding for natural resource agencies and programs, as well as policy that will ensure a better Oregon for our children.

We encourage your careful consideration of HB 5010, the ODFW's proposed 2017-2019 budget. As the Legislature and the Governor's Office consider reductions to ODFW's budget, we encourage the consideration of ODFW's value in conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats for the Oregonians of today and tomorrow.

OCN supports the Budget Reduction Option for predator control. However, OCN opposes the remainder of the Reduction Options to the 2017-2019 Current Service Level Budget. OCN is concerned with the reduction in ODFW's salmon monitoring programs and the elimination of tech positions in Central Point and John Day. OCN is also concerned with the Budget Reduction Option for the Water Quality/Quantity program. OCN supports fully funding POP 108: Instream Water for Fish Health. We believe funding FTE's that support this program is vital to support ODFW's Water Quality/Quantity program.

In conclusion, we ask that this Subcommittee reconsider proposed cuts found in HB 5010 and approve ODFW's proposed 2017-2019 budget. We believe ODFW's work is of vital importance to our members and the invaluable services its provides for the future of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Paige Spence
Director, Oregon Conservation Network
Oregon League of Conservation Voters